

EDITORS REASSIGNED BY WASHINGTON POST

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 20—

The Washington Post has made a number of changes in its news department and others may be in the offing.

Laurence Stern, who has been national editor of the newspaper for the last three years, has been named an assistant managing editor with responsibility for heading an investigative reporting team.

Mr. Stern has been replaced by Richard Harwood, 43 years old, a leading reporter for The Post. Nicholas von Hoffman, another leading reporter, has been named the head of cultural affairs reporting, a new position.

Robert Baker, assistant city editor, has been named assistant to the managing editor, a new position. John Anderson, education writer, has been

named assistant city editor to replace Mr. Baker.

J. Russell Wiggins, The Post editor, confirmed the changes, which were announced to the staff today but have not yet been made public. He said they were already being made, and other sources said, additional shifts might come soon.

The sources said that Mr. Wiggins, who will be 65 in December, will retire at that time as editor of the newspaper. He joined The Post in 1953 as managing editor, and rose to the position of editor and executive vice president in 1960.

Mr. Wiggins's retirement, the sources speculated, could open the way for the elevation of Benjamin C. Bradlee from the position of managing editor to editor, and Philip L. Geyelin, editor of the editorial page, to the post of managing editor.

Mr. Wiggins declined to comment on the reports that he would retire and that Mr. Bradlee and Mr. Geyelin would move into new posts.